

II. REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 28-39 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

The specification is amended to reflect the cross-reference to prior applications.

Originally filed claims 1-27 are canceled. Claims 1-27 are canceled without prejudice to renewal, without intent to acquiesce to any rejection, and without intent to surrender any subject matter encompassed by the canceled claims. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue any canceled subject matter in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

New claims 28-39 are added. Support for new claims 28-39 is found in claims 19-25 and 27 as originally filed, and throughout the specification, in particular at the following exemplary locations: page 20, lines 8-9; page 25, lines 7-8; page 25, lines 26-27; page 6, line 15; page 25, lines 5-6; page 20, lines 25-29; and page 28, lines 1-8. Accordingly, no new matter is added by these new claims.

Applicants respectfully request entry of new claims 28-39, as shown above.

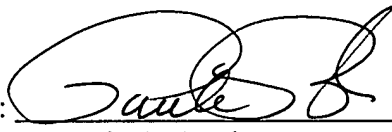
III. CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number AERX067CON2.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: Dec. 10, 2003

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